

Labour reforms in the country

78. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have chalked out any programme for labour reforms in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when the labour reforms are likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Review/updation of labour laws, by way of labour reforms is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. Accordingly, amendments to the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 have been enforced w.e.f. 09.11.2005 and amendment proposals in respect of the Factories Act, 1948, the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988 and the Apprentices Act, 1961 have been introduced in the Parliament on 16.08.2005, 22.08.2005 and 19.05.2006 respectively.

Four tier organisational structure for employees P.F.O.

79. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a four tier organizational structure has been recommended for the Employees Prudent Fund Organisations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is true that such structure will bring down the delay in settlement of P.F. claims; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation had engaged Xavier Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur for recommending "Organisational

Restructuring and Cadre Review of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation". The XLRI has since submitted its final report in August, 2006 providing for:

- (i) Branch Office as the first tier with exclusively original jurisdiction only.
 - (ii) Regional Office as the second tier with original jurisdiction of its own and supervisory jurisdiction over two Branch Offices.
 - (iii) Zonal Office as the third tier having supervisory jurisdiction over three Regional Offices.
 - (iv) Central Office at the Apex level.
- (c) and (d) The objective of the proposed changes aims at better reporting, supervision and control processes and is expected to improve, *inter alia*, settlement of claims.

Unemployment rates In the country

80. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to the 61st Round of Employment and Unemployment for July, 2004 to June, 2006, carried out by the NSSO, the unemployment rate in rural areas is 17 per cent and unemployment in urban areas is 45 per cent;
- (b) if so, the reasons for such a sharp increase in the rate of unemployment during the last two years;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made to this effect;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether it is also a fact that the Survey revealed that the unemployment rate in women is higher than that of men; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a), (e) & (f) As per 55th and 61st round of NSSO, unemployment rate in the country on usual status basis during 1999-2000 and 2004-05 are given below: